

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Formal drawings are provided in Attachment A. No substantive changes are introduced and the drawings do not introduce new matter.

Attachment A: Replacement sheets 1-6.

REMARKS

I. Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicant brings to the Examiner's attention the Information Disclosure Statement filed with this Reply. The Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention related co-pending patent applications 10/724,984, 10/724,985, 10/724,986 and 10/724,987, each of which was filed on November 30, 2003, from which the references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement were cited.

The specification has also been amended to reference the related co-pending patent applications to provide notice pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and MPEP 2001.06(b). This amendment is not an admission that the above-referenced applications include information that is material to patentability of the claims in the instant case; rather, the undersigned provides this amendment consistent with his duty of candor and good faith to the Patent and Trademark Office.

II. Drawings

Formal replacement drawings are submitted for acceptance by the Examiner.

III. Claim Rejections And Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-15 were found to be allowable, and claims 2-4, 9, 17 and 18 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1, 5-8, 10, 16 and 19 were rejected as being anticipated or obvious over the cited art.

Claims 1, 8, 10, 16 and 19 are cancelled.

Claim 2 has been amended into independent form, and claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 2. Accordingly, claims 3-7 now depend directly or indirectly from claim 2. Thus claim 2-7 are allowable over the art of record.

Claim 9 has been amended into independent form, and is thus allowable over the art of record.

Claims 11-15 stand allowable.

Claim 17 has been amended into independent form, and claim 18 depends from claim 17. Accordingly, claims 17 and 18 are allowable over the art of record.

IV. Conclusion


The Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayment associated with this response to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 501432, ref: 783403-605017.

Respectfully submitted,

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